

(c) if so, the steps Government proposes to take to ensure that industries across the country are adopting water conservation methods?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) Yes, Sir. The proposal to set up National Bureau of Water Use Efficiency *inter-alia* envisages taking necessary steps to improve water use efficiency and encourage conservation of water in agriculture, domestic and industrial sectors.

(b) The National Commission on Integrated Water Resources Development had assessed the demand of water in industry as 81 billion cubic metres by the year 2050. In view of the growing demand of water due to population growth, rapid industrialization and urbanisation, there is a need to conduct audit of water consumption by industries to ensure optimum utilisation of available water resources.

(c) The Government has formulated National Manufacturing Policy which, *inter-alia*, stipulates mandatory water audit for industrial and institutional units in National Investment and Manufacturing Zones.

Tackling of flood in North Bengal

1696. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the rivers flowing from Bhutan create havoc/loss due to flood in North Bengal; and

(b) if so, whether Government would take effective steps to find a permanent solution to stop recurrence of such flood?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Flood management being a State subject, the schemes of flood management are planned, investigated, formulated and executed by the concerned State Government as per the priority within the State. The role of Union Government is technical, advisory, catalytic and promotional in nature. However, the Government of India is also providing central assistance to the States for better flood management in critical areas.

As regards permanent solution to floods, it is to be mentioned that floods are natural phenomena and permanent immunity against floods is neither possible nor practicable but their impacts can be minimized.

In order to address the problem of flood caused due to rivers flowing from Bhutan in India, the Governments of India and Bhutan have set up a Joint Group of Experts (JGE) of which Indian side is headed by Commissioner (B&B), Ministry of Water Resources. The Chairman, North Bengal Flood Control Commission, State Government of West Bengal and the Chief Engineer, Water Resources Department, State Government of Assam are Members in the JGE from Indian side. The JGE meets to discuss the issues related to floods and recommend suitable measures to be adopted by both the countries on respective sides.

Besides, the Government of India launched a Flood Management Programme during XI Plan and central assistance was provided to the State Government of West Bengal for flood management/anti erosion works in North Bengal.

Depletion of ground water level

†1697. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps taken by the Ministry for irrigation of farmer's land this year in the country in the wake of low rainfall;
- (b) the details of depletion of groundwater level due to irrigation with groundwater on account of low rainfall, State-wise/region-wise; and
- (c) the details of steps taken by the Ministry to check depletion of groundwater and to recharge it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) "Water" being a State subject, steps to make provision of water for irrigation owing to deficient rainfall are undertaken by the State Governments. The Central Government supplements the efforts of the State Governments by providing technical and financial assistance through various schemes and programmes *viz.* Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programmes, Command Area Development and Water Management Programme. Repair, Renovation & Restoration of Water Bodies, and Artificial Recharge of Ground Water etc.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.